

FILMS

YOUNG MR. LINCOLN. This is an experiment in biography which is more ambitious in its self-imposed limitations than many a life-long portrait of the great President. It is complete in the sense that the spectator's familiarity with the unused material is constantly made to bear on some seven years of Lincoln's young manhood by devices which are often more dramatic than any actual presentation of incident. John Ford's method would be impossible with a subject whose life had been less thoroughly memorized, but here it is provocative and calls for audience cooperation in almost classical measure. The visible plot is anecdotal, covering Lincoln's early struggle for a career in the law and dwelling climactically on the famous murder trial. The death of Ann Rutledge is introduced merely for motivation and the successful country lawyer's forward march is halted on the threshold of greatness. Mr. Ford's direction relies on symbolism and overtones not merely for theatrical effect but for finishing off the story edges of this biographical fragment. In the title rôle, Henry Fonda has the great virtue of sincerity and impresses the cardinal traits of the original on our memory. Alice Brady is effective in a pathetic rôle and Arleen Whelan, Donald Meek, Eddie Quillan, Richard Cromwell and Ward Bond are excellent in support. For the worthiness of its subject matter and the artistry, this film is recommended to all. (*Twentieth Century-Fox*)

THE SUN NEVER SETS. The chief menace to the ubiquitous, though sometimes under protest, British Empire in this cinema instance is a would-be dictator who has borrowed his particular ideology from the ants. Disraeli said that the people of England are the most enthusiastic in the world and it must be so if they can welcome this yarn with its analogy between tyrant and termite, and not smile. For our own audiences, it is merely another melodrama of intrigue, taking the Gold Coast of Africa for its locale and generating its excitement from the designs of an alien scientist on certain necessary war materials. Rowland Lee has given the story direct action and suspense, and Basil Rathbone, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Lionel Atwill and C. Aubrey Smith act it out with a proper appreciation of the dignity of empire. It is an *adult* and masculine adventure, with one rather overdrawn pull on feminine emotions. (*Universal*)

INVITATION TO HAPPINESS. Some too familiar elements of romantic drama are handled in an unusual fashion for once, and this picture is noteworthy for upsetting a few annoying precedents. It is the tale of a prize-fighter who marries into society, but there the resemblance to its forebears ends. The hero ends by not winning the championship, although he does win thereby the affection of his young son and reclaims his wife who has divorced him. Wesley Ruggles has developed his characters with more than ordinary insight and even a realistic ring battle does not overshadow their importance. Fred MacMurray, as the fighter who persistently follows the wrong goal, Irene Dunne, William Collier, Sr., and Charlie Ruggles give performances with the stamp of conviction upon them. This is an appealing picture for adults. (*Paramount*)

CLIMBING HIGH. The involutions of this plot run in indirect proportion to the interest aroused and Jessie Matthews' dancing talent is suppressed unwisely for a wearying round of misunderstandings involving a model from the country, a marriage of convenience and a Continental jaunt, for atmosphere. This is sophisticated without being smart. Adults will find it mediocre fare. (*Twentieth Century-Fox*)

THOMAS J. FITZMORRIS

EVENTS

A great deal of dissatisfaction with the way things are going was belched forth by the week. . . . The growing practice among physicians of referring to baldness as *alopecia seborrhoica* provoked a storm of protest among members of the Baldhead Club of America. Said the Club's president: "Baldness is no ailment and it is not to be called names." . . . Canine addicts were up in arms. A San Diego, California, dog was bequeathed \$10,000 by a loving mistress. A judge ruled that "provisions for trusts in perpetuity cannot be fulfilled by a dog," handed the bullion over to a non-canine. . . . Censorious neighbors were active in Massachusetts. Because an apartment-house dweller kept sixty-six chickens in his apartment, occupants of adjoining suites, sensitive to cackling, protested, forced a separation of the man from his pets. . . . Something appeared lacking in municipal hospitality. Judge Chestnut, who journeyed from Baltimore to New York to preside at the trial of Judge Manton, had his pockets picked a few minutes after arriving in the metropolis. He entered the court room minus watch and chain. . . . Criticism of beef stew grew raucous. While inhaling a stew in the Midwest, a citizen endeavored to swallow a piece of meat three inches long, two wide, one thick. He leaves a large family behind him. . . . Not all the news, however, showed dark hues. Bright spots appeared. . . . The chief of police in London, England, was robbed. . . . The widespread dread that the American mule might become extinct like the buffalo was dissipated by a survey. . . . A New Yorker went joy-riding in a morgue wagon. . . . The astonishing improvements in recent truck design were demonstrated. In Odessa, Wash., a fast-moving truck ran over a baby, did not hurt it. . . . The campaign to make cities more beautiful continued. The Rumanian Government ordered newsboys in Bucharest to wear natty uniforms. More drastic still, the boys must even wear shoes, the decree commands. . . . Salisbury, Conn., its jail empty, sold the structure to the highest bidder. . . .

That there are shadows falling on human lives was clearly proven. . . . The mere mention of the word *sneeze* forces a young woman in California actually to sneeze. At first it was believed her frequent sneezing was caused by the California climate. Later it was found that the word itself compelled the action. . . . The College of Osteopathy in Kansas City, Mo., had one man and no women in its graduating class this year. It was the smallest class ever graduated. He attended the class dinner before the commencement. . . . Judicial precedents continued to be handed down. An Eastern judge ruled that nose-thumbing is legal, if the action is performed at a distance of ten feet or more from the person thumbing. . . . A judge in Puerto Rico allowed an eight-year-old boy to testify at a trial, after being satisfied that the juvenile understood the pernicious nature of lying. "What will happen to you if you tell a lie?" the bench queried. "I'll get warts," the precocious witness responded. . . .

Science continued battling with the frontiers of the unknown. An enzyme was discovered that will make race horses run faster. Creation of enzymes to put speed into cows brought the prediction that cows may soon be participating in the Kentucky Derby. . . . Major Edward L. Dyer, U. S. A., retired, suggested the mercy killing of aged people on relief and the hopelessly insane. He said: "This is a case where one of the ten commandments: *Thou shalt not kill* might be modified." . . . Modified by whom, Major? Can buck privates modify the Great General's orders? Did you let the privates run your battalion, Major?

THE PARADER